

# Comparisons of Job Characteristics

**Focus Occupation:** [Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators \(53-4021\)](#)

**Associated Occupation:** [Signal and Track Switch Repairers \(49-9097\)](#)

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

## Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 52

**Focus Occupation:** Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)

**Associated Occupation:** Signal and Track Switch Repairers (49-9097)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Mechanical	6.8	14.8	9.5	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Computers and Electronics	8.4	14.0	3.9	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Public Safety and Security	6.9	10.4	10.4	0	Current knowledge level may be sufficient
Engineering and Technology	5.7	9.0	4.5	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Transportation	4.6	8.8	14.2	>>	Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Telecommunications	3.9	7.1	4.8	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 30

**Focus Occupation:** Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)

**Associated Occupation:** Signal and Track Switch Repairers (49-9097)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Troubleshooting	4.5	14.4	7.6	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Equipment Maintenance	3.5	13.7	3.4	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Repairing	3.4	13.6	3.7	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Quality Control Analysis	5.9	13.0	7.4	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required

Operation Monitoring	6.6	11.9	9.6	<	A higher skill level may be required
Equipment Selection	3.3	10.2	2.8	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Installation	1.7	9.6	1.2	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 79			
Focus Occupation: Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021) Associated Occupation: Signal and Track Switch Repairers (49-9097)					
Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Visualization	7.5	12.1	9.0	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Finger Dexterity	7.6	11.9	8.8	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Far Vision	7.8	11.6	12.8	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Visual Color Discrimination	6.4	11.5	8.5	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Manual Dexterity	6.5	11.4	8.8	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Flexibility of Closure	7.8	11.2	8.0	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Spatial Orientation	2.7	7.1	6.3	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Glare Sensitivity	2.6	6.6	7.0	0	Current ability level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 31
<b>Focus Occupation: Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)</b> <b>Associated Occupation: Signal and Track Switch Repairers (49-9097)</b>		
Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity	
Move or fit heavy objects	8	
Use hand or power tools	2	

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus  
Occupation to Associated  
Occupation: n/a

**Focus Occupation: Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)**

**Associated Occupation: Signal and Track Switch Repairers (49-9097)**

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Tools and technology data is unavailable for one or both occupations.	

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.